

1/2 days sail from
Colombo. Ceylon.

Officers' Mess.

S.S. Hororata.
Trapschip. A. 20.

6TH BATTALION,

2ND INFANTRY BRIGADE,

A.I.E.F.

10 pm. 14 / Nov / 1914.

Narrative: from 19/10/14 to 14/11/14.

As I said in my previous letter we left Melbourne on Mon Oct 19th. & passed through the heads at about noon. Outside we came across the usual ocean swell & the good ship "Hororata" commenced to roll some, but there was very little sickness, only a few cases amongst the men. We found life on board very much to our liking. The men only have 1 (sometimes 2) hours parade per day. The officers work fairly hard. If not acting as orderly officer or officer of the guard, we do 3 hours lectures daily, 1 or 2 hours parade with our Companies, & evening classes in French, German, map reading, War games etc. The accommodation, food etc are good, & taking it all round the Commonwealth Govt, & the company to which the ship belongs, are treating us handsomely.

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We rise at 6 am, & the men retire between 6 pm & 9 pm ("lights out" at 9.) Officers retire at any hour they please; strictly speaking, "lights out" as far as the saloon is concerned, is at 11 pm but we really please ourselves.

Well, from leaving Melb, to our arrival at Albany W.A. there is not much to be related. The same daily round went on; we were the only ship to be seen, & things were not as interesting as they are now that we are portion of the fleet. Arrived Albany on Sun 25th, & anchored in the Harbour. It is a very pretty harbour, about the size of Sydney Harbour, & capable of accommodating the whole fleet (43 ships) & as many more if necessary. On the following Thurs we moved to the railway pier for water & provisions, but were not allowed ashore. Very little leave was granted, & our officers did not get any. We left Albany as a fleet. on Sunday Nov 1st. During our weeks

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Stay in Albany all our ships arrived, also 10 New Zealand ships, & 4 or 5 war-ships. In a separate sheet I give a plan of the fleet as we have sailed from Albany to Colombo, & a list of the names of ships, their numbers, & the troops they carry. You will see by it that it is a fairly large show. It is absolutely the finest sight we have ever seen, by far the most impressive & wonderful thing that has ever been seen south of the line. As you will see by the plan we are in a good position to see everything; there are ships in front, ships ~~astern~~ astern, ships (lots of them) on our left. The distance between the lines (laterally) is about 1000 yds, & between ships (in front & astern) about 800. At night they are a beautiful sight, except on certain nights on which we travelled with "lights set out" & then they were no sight at all as we could see absolutely nothing. In another list I

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H
give a list of wireless messages received to date. By this you will know (if you have not already had the news) that one of our escort ships left the fleet on 10th inst (H.M.A.S. Sydney) & smashed up the famous "Bundley". We have just had word that she ^{the "Sydney"} will pass through our ranks at 5 am tomorrow (15th) making for Colombo, with prisoners & wounded on board. Needless to say we will all be up early to see her go through. We will also arrive at Colombo tomorrow, by the way. It is a strange thing that we left Knelt on a Sun; arrived Albany on a Sun; left Albany on a Sun; & will arrive Colombo on a Sun. Am afraid the record will be broken however, as we only stay in Colombo about 24 hours, leaving on Mon 16th inst.) We have all been treated with 2 inoculations against typhoid, 1 on each arm, ten days between each. They resulted in 24 to 36 hours misery with sore arms etc, but nothing to cry

about. Have only seen about 3 ships during the 2 weeks run from Albany to Colombo; each of which was stopped by one or another of our warships & then allowed to go on. About 8 or 9 days ago the "Osterley", mail ship, from Aust to England, caught us up, as we are only going at about 9 or 10 knots & she does about 16. She was allowed to pass through the fleet, & the passengers saw the whole show, & were cheered by each ship as they passed.

So much for the past. As I said before we will be in Colombo tomorrow, leave on Monday 16th Nov, & as far as we know (& it is pretty certain) go to England via Suez etc. We will arrive in England about Christmas; on 24th Dec we think. Further than that I know nothing.

Love to all

J

Officers' Mess.

List of messages recd.

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9/11/14 by signal from "Orvieto" 2.17 pm. "German cruiser, name unknown, beached to save herself from sinking. "Sydney" scouting for enemy's merchantmen & colliers.

9/11/14 Interrupted portion of message from Melbourne (5.5) pm. "Enemy's boats must have crossed our quarters last night. "Sydney" is now chasing the "Königsberg". Expect more news from "Sydney" shortly.

10/11/14 by Wireless from H. M. A. S. Melbourne 9.35 am. "On Sunday night the "Endeavour" probably passed within 20 miles of the convoy. The wireless was silent & the van of the convoy so well darkened that she might have passed within 5 miles ahead of us.

10/11/14 by wireless from "Orvieto" 2.15 pm. "Sydney" started off for Cocos at 7 am (Cocos islands, in response to wireless calls for help from the station there. etc) & at 9.30 she had sighted the enemy travelling at full speed. She was able to get within range in 20 minutes. At the same time she signalled the chase was speeding north. At 10.38 the "Sydney" was engaging the enemy briskly, & at 11.10 the latter had to beach herself

to avoid sinking. Her foremast & 3 funnels were down, but the flag was still flying.

"Sydney" then went after the enemy's collier, took the crew off, & sank her. "Sydney" again returned to "Enden" who surrendered. The extent & nature of the "Enden's" casualties are not yet known but they are bound to be severe. The "Sydney's" own casualties required hospital treatment, which was probably found on Possession Island.

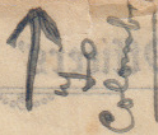
The "Enden" had had time to destroy wireless station & cut one of the cables. Second cable is intact & probably the third. All the instruments were destroyed except one. This had been buried, & is intact again. The wireless & cable operators deserve much praise for sticking to their post & sending out distress signals & saving instruments.

Sydney will sail for Colombo as soon as she has succeeded in getting the German wounded & prisoners on board. The operation may take 24 hours, as it presents considerable difficulties.

(Excuse hasty writing)
J.P.

X Warships.

223112



6TH BATTALION.
2ND INFANTRY BRIGADE.
A.I.F.

x O Hampshire (20 miles ahead)

x O Minster (5 miles ahead)

x O Japanese ship

O 1

O 1

O 1

O 2

O 2

O 2

O 3

O 3

O 3

O 4

O 4

O 4

O 5

O 5

O 5

O 6

O 6

O 6

O 7

O 7

O 7

O 8

O 8

O 8 x Hornet

O 9

O 9

O 9

O 10

2nd Division

1st Division

3rd Division

x O Melbourne (5 miles off)

x O Japanese ship (5 miles off)

New Zealand ships; (about 1/2 mile in rear of our ships)

x O Sydney (5 miles)

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List of ships
in fleet.

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2ND INFANTRY BRIGADE,

A.I.E.F.

Warships. Ahead. H. M. S. Hampshire. (about 20 miles)
H. M. S. Minotaur. (" 5 ")
Japanese ships.
Starboard. Japanese ships.
Port. H. M. A. S. Melbourne.
Astern. H. M. A. S. Sydney. A .8.

Troopships.

1st. (Centre) Division.

1. A. 23. "Orvieto" Carrying General Officer Commanding;
Staff; 1 Sub Battalion Infantry.
2. A. 22. "Southern" Horses (New Zealand)
3. A. 4. "Pera" Artillery (Sydney)
4. A. 26. "Amidale" Melb. Lines of Communication
5. A. 12. "Saldana" S. Aust. Horses.
6. A. 1. "Hymettus" Army Service Corps Horses.
7. A. 23. "Suffolk" Sydney Infantry.
8. A. 25. "Anglo Egyptian" Light Horse Train (Supplies)
9. A. 13. "Katuna" Sydney & Hobart Horses.

2nd & 3rd Divisions.

2nd (Left) Division

1. A. 18. "Wiltshire" Melb Light Horse & A.M.C.
2. A. 7. "Medie." S. Aust. & W.A. Artillery. etc.
3. A. 11. "Ascanius." S. Aust & W.A. Inftry.
4. A. 15. "Star of England." Light Horse & Bde Train.
5. A. 2. "Geelong" Melb & Gas Inftry.
6. A. 17. "Post Lincoln." S. Aust. Light Horse.
7. A. 10. "Karoo." Melb & Sydney Ammunition Column
8. A. 21. "Marsce." Melb Horses.
9. A. 6. "Clan Mackquodale." Sydney Horses.

3rd (Right) Division.

1. A. 14. "Euripides" Syd Inftry.
2. A. 8. "Argylshire." Syd Artillery.
3. A. 9. "Shropshire" Melb Artillery.
4. A. 14. "Afric." Syd. Inftry.
5. A. 24. "Benalla." 8th Batta (Vic)
6. A. 22. "Mangahia." 2nd Land Art. & Inftry
7. A. 16. "Star of Victoria" Sydney Light Horse
8. A. 20. "Hawkeston" 7th & 6th Inftry
9. A. 5. "Omrah" 2nd Land Inftry.
10. A. 28. "Miltshire." Reservists (Imperial)

New Zealand ships. "Mangani"; "Orari"; "Star of India";
 "Limerick"; "Tanihi"; "Arawa"; "Athene";
 "Hawkeston"; "Kupelini"; "Waimania."